

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA-03) issued the following statement after voting No on S. 365, the Budget Control Act of 2011:

"This budget deal is completely irresponsible and only begins to offset the \$800 billion in tax cuts Congress extended last December, much of which benefits that portion of a taxpayer's income in excess of \$250,000.

"The deal contains spending caps and leaves the details to the Appropriations Committee and this new Joint Committee on Debt Reduction, but we already know what will have to be cut and we have a general idea of the magnitude. Annualized, the original version of the Republican Continuing Resolution (CR) in the House contained \$100 billion in cuts and over 10 years that adds up to \$1 trillion. The CR made deep cuts to the safety net, including Low Income Heating Assistance, Community Action Agencies, Community Health Centers, the Woman, Infant and Child Nutrition program, and Legal Aid. It also cut important investments in our nation, including NASA, Head Start, TRIO, immunizations, AmeriCorps, Job Training, and High Speed Rail. And it cut general vital functions of government, such as Air Traffic Controllers, COPS and Firefighter grants, FBI, Clean Water Grants, FEMA, assistance to small shipyards, OSHA inspections, Border Security, National Parks, and Food Inspectors.

"To add insult to injury, the last section of the deal ends Federal subsidized student loans for graduate students and ends repayment incentives for students to pay back their loans on time and on schedule. Sadly, even with all these harmful cuts, the estimated savings of this deal only pay for half of the cost of extending all of the Bush-era tax cuts for another decade. If we insist on extending the Bush-era tax cuts at a cost of \$4 trillion over 10 years, cutting Social Security and Medicare and other programs supporting our nation's safety net, investments in our future and other traditional functions of government will be necessary.

"We are asking low income families, seniors, children, beneficiaries of government programs, and graduate students to help pay for extending tax cuts for millionaires. That's just not right and we should have never gotten to this point. We should have been more responsible last December and been honest with the American people about the true cost of these tax cuts."

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